

SOUTH JERSEY DRUG TREATMENT CENTER

162 Cumberland Drive, P.O. Box 867

Bridgeton, New Jersey 08302

856-455-5441

Fax No. 856-455-0505

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November 18, 1999

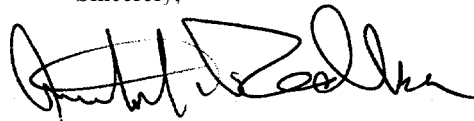
Secretary of Department of Health & Human Services
Dockets **Management** Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug **Administration**
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Re: Docket No. 98N-0617

Dear Secretary:

The reason methadone has worked as well as it has is because of **the federal** requirements as they are. The reason the addiction problem **cannot** be controlled is because the quality of heroin is so high which it appears also can't be controlled. Addicts prefer heroin over methadone. Making methadone more **available** is not going to decrease the heroin problem. The take-home policy will increase the number of take-home bottles on the street **which** will lower the price of street methadone. This will enable many addicts to live off street methadone and never receive real treatment. Not receiving real treatment will result in all the problems that go along with addiction. Untreated treated HIV, STD, Hepatitis, low birth children and the list goes on and on. This will create a Public Health problem. Treatment needs more money interdiction needs more money, but because we are fighting an unpopular battle it's difficult to get real **support**; perhaps, what is really needed is prescription heroin so that people who choose to use heroin don't have to be **criminalized** before they come to treatment. My greatest concern is that we do not stigmatize very potent drugs which may find their way into the main stream of our society.

Sincerely,



Anatoli Redka
Executive **Director**

AR:blg

98N-0617

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Sec of Dept of Health & Human
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